

TOG H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

JANUARY 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOG H AT FIFTEEN
TRINITY SQUARE — LONDON EC3



NINEPENCE

Index

The Index for Volume XXXVIII is now available. Readers wishing to obtain copies are invited to send a stamped, addressed envelope (2d.) to the Editorial Office.

STOP PRESS

TOC H DIARIES

At the time of going to press stocks of the 1961 Toc H Diary are getting low and, to avoid possible disappointment, readers are urged to send in their orders without delay. (Price 4s. 3d. or fitted pencil 4s. 9d. post free.)

Carousel

The musical play, CAROUSEL (the sixth performance for Toc H funds) by the STOCK EXCHANGE DRAMATIC & OPERATIC SOCIETY, is being given at the SCALA THEATRE, London, on Tuesday, February 14th in aid of the new Mark III, Hackney.

If the demand for tickets for the previous shows is any indication, early application to Ken Rogers, Bursar at Headquarters, is advisable especially for block bookings for Branch parties.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London. S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year. N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



JANUARY 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

In and Out	<i>Notes and Comment</i>	2
'Lako'	<i>P. B. Clayton</i>	5
Brothers of the Angle	<i>John Callf</i>	9
Multum in Parvo	<i>Much in Little</i>	11
'Focus on Toc H (2)'	<i>Prize-winning Pictures</i>	12
Mark III Guest-night	<i>Colin Campbell</i>	14
Far Cry, Overseas Notes	<i>Geoff Martin</i>	15
Dor Knap	<i>1961 Bookings</i>	18
From All Parts	<i>Area News</i>	20
Vision to Reality	<i>John Cox</i>	27
'Little Lamps and Constancy'	<i>Joyce Green</i>	29
'Ecumaniacs'	<i>Leonard Rivett</i>	31
The Elder Brethren	<i>Roll of Honour</i>	33
Melrose Conference	<i>Bob Scott</i>	35
Open Hustings	<i>Readers' Letters</i>	39
The Old Chapel	<i>Donald Cox</i>	41
'In response to your letter . . .'	<i>T. A. Lamberton</i>	42
Going Places, 1961	<i>Party Programmes</i>	44

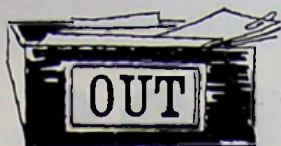
COVER PICTURE: High Brooms (Kent)
Branch members packing bags of Christmas fare
for distribution to local old folk.

Photograph by courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Advertiser

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AND



notes & comment

Getting to Know

AMONG THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING WITHIN Toc H in recent times has been an increased awareness by members of the need to become better informed about the Movement's 'aims and objects'. At last it seems that the word 'training' no longer jars on us, and included in this number is Bob Scott's description of a very successful conference recently held at Melrose; the first to be organised in Scotland for training purposes. Close alongside this need for training is a parallel need of many Branches and groups to bring themselves up to date in a changing Britain with what is happening, or should be happening, within their own localities. Making a district survey is no new notion, but any Toc H unit with a mind to carry-out even a partial survey is bound to make some interesting discoveries and will find themselves embarked on a most valuable and rewarding experience.

Hospital Libraries

WE ARE GLAD TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS this tribute to the long-standing job for helping with hospital libraries which occurs in the annual report for 1959 on Hospital Library Services sponsored by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

"Toc H was founded soon after the First World War as an interdenominational association for Christian social service. Besides many other forms of service, members early realised from their own experience as patients how greatly books were needed in hospitals. They also found that running a hospital library helped them to make friends with lonely people.

Manchester Royal Infirmary is believed to have been the first hospital served in this way by Toc H; the first books were given by members or collected by means of a local press appeal. Later the co-operation of Manchester City Libraries was obtained. There is now a Manchester and Salford hospital library committee which advises all hospitals in the locality. Some libraries are staffed by Toc H and some by other bodies.

This is the pattern of much Toc H service throughout the country. Some 200 hospitals' libraries are organised and/or staffed (wholly or in part) by Toc H members."

"Tamasha No. 3"

THE PRESENCE OF ALAN AND RUTH COWLING on leave over here from Australia was good excuse for sending the well-known command, *Idhar ao jaldi!*, to Servicemen, civilians and Toc H War Services' staff who had anything to do with Toc H work in India and S.E.A.C. during World War II. Forty people came from far and wide to Toc H Headquarters on Saturday, November 19th. GEORGE MEASURES and family drove all through the night from Carlisle. Driver 'SNOWBALL' ALLEN came down from Tees-side, and 'BARRY' BARRACLOUGH all the way from Taunton for three hours with the old gang. We reminisced, we exercised what remains to us of our once so fluent Hindustani, and we assured one another, with a great deal of justification, that none of us looked fifteen years older than when the job came to an end. Altogether it was a very good *bandobast*. Perhaps we shall not wait a full five years to hold the next get-together, so anyone not already on the list and wishful to hear whenever "Tamasha No. 4" is arranged should send name and address to John Callf at Toc H Headquarters.

Groton Old Hall Weeks

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE AGAIN BEEN MADE FOR Toc H parties to stay at this delightful Suffolk manor house for the weeks August 12 to September 9. Many members and friends who spent a holiday in this way in 1959 and 1960 are eager to go again—even after that damp summer last year. It is a free and easy type of holiday and ideal for the family party. The charges are £6 for an adult and £3 5s. for a child, per week. If you would like to have fuller particulars, please write to—'Fergie', Groton Old Hall Weeks, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Boxing the Compass of Toc H

*We pledge ourselves to build as pioneers,
To help in work we know we ought to do ;
To think with fairness, not with prejudice,
To spread the Gospel beyond pews and pulpits,
By daily demonstration of its truth,
Rendering lives unselfish and unflinching.*

* * *

*Fortitude, Fairmindedness, Friendship, Faith.
This is the Compass Code we fain would keep.*

P.B.C.



WILLIAM JOHN LAKE LAKE

Honorary Administrator of Toc H, 1940-1946

'Lako'

P. B. CLAYTON

Here is the address given by the Founder Padre at the Memorial Service to William John Lake Lake held in All Hallows on November 15

THE GREEK WORD 'character' was only used in the New Testament on one occasion. It is then used uniquely of the Christ, the express image of His Father, God, by the unknown writer who addressed the Jews after Jerusalem became a ruin in A.D. 70, and the few survivors crept out into such villages as Pella, or braved the rough journeys to far foreign lands. The writer to the Hebrews clearly felt that he was called not just to comfort them, but to convince them of Christ's character.

I make friends slowly, and old friends die fast.

I am not here to comfort you tonight, but to convince you, as my closest friends, that two more of the Bunyan characters first Mr. Standfast,* then again Old Honest, who have at last fulfilled their earthly span perhaps may now be permitted to turn back and hearken to the sound of our farewell. Both in a single week have passed to Rest. Both of them stood for nearly forty years in the small circle of my closest friends. On the advice and influence of each I have been long accustomed to rely. I do not think that they have ever met: only last week I think they came together, and stand united on the Further Side, eager to help us, and convinced they can.

Single-handed effort

Now nearly all of you who come tonight have come to pay your tribute to one friend whose name has been a household word with us. When the history of Toc H comes to be chronicled in future years, the single-handed effort of 'Lako' will shine forth as perfectly unique in two respects. William John Lake Lake spent several years prior to World War I in Argentina. On rare occasions and among old friends we were permitted to obtain a glimpse of the great ranges and the open prairie space where he displayed his speed, his strength, his skill, and proved his manhood in a hard, rough, school.

* Barry Cassell, of Baltimore, who died on November 5, 1960.

His book and stories speak of these adventures. This free and gallant life he dearly loved: but it was sacrificed when war broke out, and he immediately returned to Britain to serve the country that he loved the best. He was an Old House man from first to last: and when the first Mark I opened its doors, some months before his own return to Argentina not to estancias but to Buenos Aires, he took his place among the Mark I team. Here he remained until 1922, and when I went to Canada that year we said farewell until 1927, when I went out to see the work he had done.

Hopes exceeded

How little I then dreamed that he alone would prove himself to be well capable of shouldering a task which much exceeded our best hopes. Within Mark I we had come to know the man, friendly and modest, supremely gifted not only with his pen, but with his sword. From time to time his contributions found their way to *Punch* and possibly to *Blackwoods*; but what was strangest, to our way of thinking, was that he held the lists at R.A.C. with Colonel RONALD CAMPBELL as his partner. When Toc H had one House in London only, with a few Branches scattered round Great Britain, the skill and prowess which he had derived from Monsieur Bertrand, being as he was a quite outstanding pupil in this art, he won the praise of Colonel Ronald Campbell. None could foresee that these peculiar gifts would prove of any value in the future. But when he reached B.A. and took his post in his great oil concern, his nights were free. Then very recently in Buenos Aires, down at the Seamen's Mission, Canon BRADY had come to institute a boxing ring. This he had done, in order to prevent seamen of many pigments in the port, fighting each other under foul conditions, when knives were all too frequently employed. Brady, a light-weight of no small repute, hoped he had solved the problem from the start. He quickly found that the new boxing ring compelled his presence night after night, without the least omission, as the sole referee. Time and again he found himself alone in his stern task, yet he had been known by now to take fierce risks when he had found a knife concealed. Thus on a morning when he was half-minded to close the ring unless he could secure unpaid assistants as new referees, Lake Lake found time to pay a morning call.

Tradition has it that he used the word which Colonel MURRAY-SMITH had used at Cheltenham, the first provincial Branch of Toc H in U.K. This word had spread. Toc H declined to talk of Social Service. It talked of jobs, dished out by jobmasters. When Canon Brady heard this simple word, he naturally thought the word meant employment, and simply said that he had none to give. Lako quickly brushed aside this line of thought, and stated what he needed in clear terms. To these the Canon naturally asked why this one man among the sixty-thousand British in Buenos Aires thought it essential to undertake, as if it were a hobby, a spare-time post unpaid.

Wise deterrent

Lake Lake pronounced the word Toc H, saying he was a member. When Canon Brady asked him to explain the nature of this strange society, Lako replied that if he would give him work he would do his best to demonstrate its spirit.

Fencers are a clean run type of man; and when Lake Lake, to his own cost, discovered that there was urgent need of extra help, he straightway joined the British Fencing Club, as a dark horse. When challenged he obeyed, only explaining to each new opponent that while if they defeated him he would pay what they proposed as the stake upon the match, if he should win, he would invite them to become his guests and working partners in the Seamen's Mission, helping in turn to run the Boxing Ring. During the next few weeks, Lake Lake disarmed, or so I was informed by Canon Brady, seventeen contestants, each of whom fulfilled the sporting promise they had made to him. These converts whom Lake Lake, like young Mahomet, obtained not so much by his tongue, but by his sword, pestered Lako to learn about Toc H. Having thus led them on unconsciously, he knew far better than to urge their pace. Indeed, he seemed to make it plain to them that he was most unwilling to proceed. This wise deterrent helped to stimulate what thus became a frequent urgent plea, to which Lake Lake then grudgingly consented. A Toc H Branch was formed, and when the members moved far up-country, where they found new friends, they spread a living network of Toc H, and found new jobs of every sort and kind which they could undertake in true team spirit. The Spaniard as a boy, or as a youth, found Boys' Clubs a new and amusing feature; and

British sailors who had gone too far, and got into trouble with the Spanish law, were found and freed before their ships had sailed.

Meanwhile the growth continued.

The long Andes range came to be crossed by members who declined to leave the Movement, and Branches in Chile cropped up in due course; and in Bolivia openings for Toc H were rapidly becoming manifest. On the east at Montevideo the Branch began in very cheerful mood, followed by Pernambuco and Sao Paulo, and even Rio made a wise investment.

Thus the one man we have now laid to Rest, the Churchwarden of a Sussex village, found that his name was known from coast to coast, and that no British ship of any size could reach a port without encountering some men ashore who wore the Toc H Lamp, practised its code, and wished to see it grow. A House in Buenos Aires had been bestowed, and juniors coming out for the first time were pleasantly surprised to find themselves first welcome guests, and then true working partners.

From 1922 to '39 this tiny mustard seed, in one true friend, spread out its Branches in those vast domains. When our dear friend retired, the thing he founded still passed from hand to hand until the war came. This brought eclipse to many of our Branches; and in the aftermath our British status sadly declined in numbers and importance.

A new field

Meanwhile, there was more work for him to do, and a new field for his maturer powers. When Hubert Secretan became compelled to leave his work as our Administrator for war work in the Ministry of Sea-Transport, Lake Lake resigned his loved Observer post, and gave the next five years entirely freely to constant travel, both by sea and air. Under God's hand the work he so encouraged, and caused to be effectively equipped, spread east and west, and north as far as Iceland, but chiefly on the SEAC front. Lake Lake supervised each detail of his task. He knew and picked the leaders of each stronghold. His friendship and experience and patience were proof against the troubles of that time.

When I thus found myself, a week ago, watching his coffin carried from his home down to the village church among

his friends, to whom he had proved himself a fine Churchwarden and a valued member. I tried to give my thanks to God for him. They told me, when I lingered in the Church, of friendships he had built among them all. Their words were simple, and their minds sincere. I longed to tell them what I knew of him. I found I could quote:

*A friend who never changes
Whose love will never die.*

Brothers of the Angle

JOHN CALLF

WHEN A BISHOP goes in procession he carries a shepherd's crook to remind everyone, himself included, that above all he is a shepherd of men. If in fancy we were asked to devise some equivalent symbol of leadership in Toc H we might well agree upon a fishing rod, carried over the shoulder, to show others and remind ourselves that first and foremost we are fishers of men. Perhaps then some of our conferences would be taken up less with tortured examination of 'problems', and much more given over to the simple, cheerful, swapping of human fishing yarns—success stories, and, just as important, tales of the ones that got away—and why.

Why do we try to catch men at all? Let us accept quite simply that the task of Toc H is not to make members but to spread a spirit. If we make membership the be-all and end-all of our activities, we shall fail, and we shall deserve to fail. Only men who are not strong in themselves seek strength in numbers. If on the other hand we see our job as the spreading of a spirit, regardless of whether it leads to Toc H membership or not, then we may find our Branch surrounded with a great company of well-wishers, allies, Builders, fellow-workers on our jobs, and, incidentally, a number of fully committed new members as well. Our object, as Tubby has said constantly, is not to get more men into Toc H, but to get Toc H into more men.

It has been said that every Christian needs *two* conversions: first to Christ and then to the world. So with Toc H, becoming a member may mean much or little—it all depends on

what the man does from then on, whether he picks up a rod and goes out to fish for other men, or whether he just sits down and becomes one more digit added to the Branch's weekly attendance average.

Treating men as statistics shows ignorance of the deeper purpose of Toc H. It is observable that the Branches which rush men into so-called membership are invariably the first to cross them off the Branch roll as soon as they become a blot on the weekly attendance averages. So-called 'organised religion' has often been attacked for just that sort of thing. Heaven defend us from 'organised Toc H'! If a member dies does our Branch take Light in his memory and cross him off the books? Does not a portion of his spirit remain with his wife and family, a continuing outpost of Toc H, regularly to be visited?

Our Movement is at its best where men have received that double conversion to Toc H, and because of it they go out to meet the challenges of the society they live amongst. By such standards the finest Toc H in the world today is probably to be found in Africa, from Uganda down through the Rhodesias to the Cape. It may not be big, and its members would certainly not claim to be perfect, but they are seeing more and more clearly that the first thing is to understand Toc H and to spread its spirit, regardless of whether that adds up to more members or less. They are a fine embodiment of the words in the Main Resolution, "... reckoning nothing of the world's opinion or its successes for ourselves or this our family. . . ."

The golden rule for good fishing is never let the line go slack. Good fishing to all of us! May we have many true—well, reasonably true—fishermen's stories to tell before this year is through.

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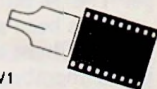
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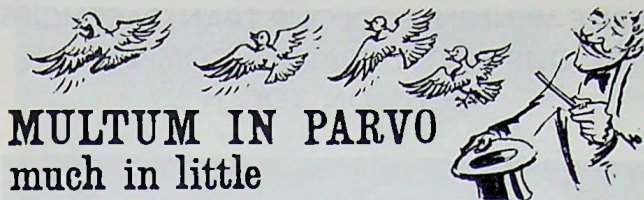
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MULTUM IN PARVO

much in little

✠ RONALD SYMONS has been obliged to resign from the chairmanship of the Central Executive on being seconded from H.M. Treasury to the Foreign Office for service as Minister in the United Kingdom Delegation to the O.E.E.C. in Paris.

✠ The Rt. Rev. LESLIE W. BROWN, Bishop of Namirembe, Hon. Association Padre of Toc H, has been elected the first Archbishop of Uganda.

✠ Canon C. K. SANSBURY, Warden of St. Augustine's College and Canterbury Branch Padre, is to be the Bishop of Singapore.

✠ The Rev. DEREK M. BUXTON has been appointed to be a part-time Mark Padre and is now in residence at Mark XI, Leicester.

✠ DAVID FREESTON, Tonbridge Branch, is working temporarily in the London Areas.

✠ After consultation with the Dominion Executive, PETER VERE-JONES has withdrawn from his full-time appointment in New Zealand. He will continue his work in Toc H while qualifying at a teachers' training college.

✠ BRANCH MEMBERS' ROLLS are due to be sent by all Branch Executives to their Area Secretaries not later than January 15.

✠ GENERAL MEMBERS who do not contribute to the Family Purse under deed of covenant or by banker's order are asked to act on this reminder that their membership subscriptions are now due.

✠ CENTRAL COUNCIL: Notices of motion and nominations of candidates for the new Central Executive are due by February 28 from Councillors.

✠ 'CAROUSEL' at the Scala Theatre, London, on February 14, in aid of the new Mark III.

✠ The NORTH WALES Spring Festival at Rhyl on March 25.

✠ The EAST MIDLANDS Festival at Peterborough on May 27.

✠ The LONDON SPORTS in Battersea Park on June 10.

✠ The LANGDALE CAMP Week in the Lakes from June 24.

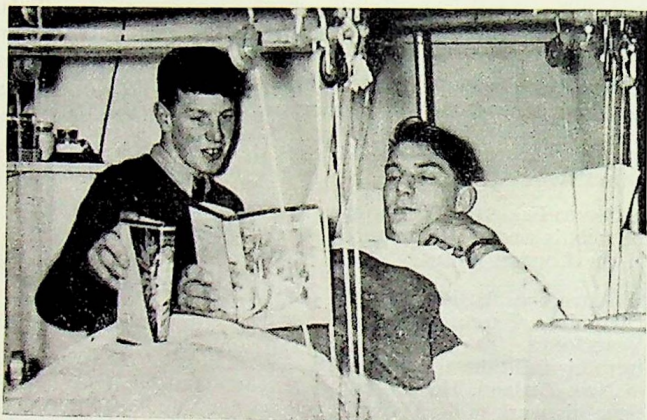
✠ The NORTHERN Rally at Durham on July 1-2.

✠ The GROTON OLD HALL Weeks in Suffolk, from August 12 to September 9. Enquiries to 'Fergie' at Headquarters.

PRIZE-WINNING COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES
IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
'FOCUS ON TOC H (2)'



FIRST PRIZE: "Prelude to 'Light'". Submitted by Miss Joan Chamberlain, London, S.W.14.



SECOND PRIZE: "Serving the sick". A Wanganui schoolboy working with the hospital library. Michal Dermer, Fielding, New Zealand.



THIRD PRIZE: "Branch H.Q. Reconstruction". The Johmaster takes a tea-break.
P. G. D. Campbell, Tillicoultry, Scotland.



FOURTH PRIZE: "Toc H Stall on Mold Market". Submitted by R. W. Harvey,
Cileain, Mold, Flintshire.

Although these prize-winning colour transparencies lose a great deal by being reproduced in black-and-white, they still succeed in telling a story. While sufficient entries were received to make the Competition worth while, the Judges would have liked to have seen many more pictures and later this year it is hoped to arrange a further competition.

Mark III Guest-night

THE NEW MARK III is under weigh. The last Guest-night in the old building on November 29 was a memorable and fitting au revoir, an evening of joy in past happiness and achievement, summed up in the Mayor's words of gratitude for all that the Mark had done for the Borough: an evening of high promise for the future.

GERRY HAYES, Chairman of the Central Houses' Committee and a former Marksman of Hackney, was in the chair. The Administrator, JOHN CALLF, and COLIN CAMPBELL, reported and prophesied! An enthusiastic bunch of Marksmen,



Howard Watson, Clapton, E.5

Among the guests: (l. to r.) The Mayor, Mrs. Sally Sherman, J.P., Colin Campbell, Alderman L. Sherman, Alderman A. Heath, Councillor Mrs. J. M. Heath, John Callf, Dr. B. Joseph, Rabbi of Hackney Synagogue, Gerry Hayes, Rev. J. Isherwood, Rector of South Hackney and Jack Lucas.

ex-Marksmen, District and Area personalities and a splendid array of guests reached a rare camaraderie.

The House was honoured indeed to welcome at one time Mayor and ex-Mayor, the Leader and another member of the Council, Rector and Rabbi: even the contractors who will build its successor were there to absorb the spirit of the place. Without exception, we are assured of their interest, friendship and help.

★ ★ ★

News has since come through that the Trustees of the Wolfson Foundation have decided to make a grant of £10,000 to be allocated in equal proportions between the Old House, Poperinge, and the new house in Hackney.



FAR CRY overseas notes

GEOFF MARTIN

UGANDA PROGRESS REPORT

IN FEBRUARY, Pineate Mulumba-Musoke, who has just completed his first appointment as Field Assistant in Uganda, arrives in Britain for a period of training.

He tells us that the Kampala members have been energetically digging the foundations of an Old Persons' Home, after the roof has already been put on, which is apparently the technique decreed by the Ministry of Housing. There have been various official complications and the erection has hung fire. Now the members are determined to go all out to complete the job.



Hiffe Herbert, Hon. Toe H Commissioner, Uganda, and other members of Kampala Branch digging the foundations.

Speaking of the progress made in rebuilding the Ntinda Boys' Club Hut (readers will remember that when it was half built an earthquake shook it down again) 'Pi' goes on to say " . . . the work is progressing well and this week the roof will be completed. The remaining job will be to plaster and probably to whitewash the inner part of the building, and also to buy glasses for both the ten windows and the main door provided there will be funds available.

One good news about this job is that, Ntinda members have secured another plot in front of the hut where they are planning to make a tennis court for the boys. This of course will widen the activities of the club. The project is rather

very expensive but I am glad to learn from members that they are prepared to carry it on as well, and they have already taken action on it. You will also be hearing about its progress in future”.

SERVICES WORK IN GERMANY

A recent War Office decision on the financial aid to be given to Services' welfare work in Germany now enables us to look ahead with more confidence than hitherto, particularly in the recruitment of staff.

Without being able to guarantee the length of an appointment to new men or women helpers, we can nevertheless say that unless there is some serious and unforeseen set-back appointments can be expected to last for three years, subject to the normal month's notice on either side. At present we have Services Clubs in Berlin, Paderborn, Munster and Verden.

Among the membership of Toc H there may be some whose personalities and circumstances make them suitable for the work and the work attractive to them. For instance, someone, perhaps in middle age or in the middle twenties (the approximate age limits are 25-50) who, for one reason or another, is free to join us for a year or two. The children may have grown up and left home, and a mother may be free to help other mothers' sons in the Services; or a man may be considering the idea of social service and can afford to risk trying his hand at Services work to get some preliminary practical experience.

No special skill or training is required, but there must be a natural liking for people, an abundance of common-sense, an ability to get on happily with colleagues living at close quarters in a club. It needs a willingness to turn a hand to anything, to work long hours when necessary, and a clear understanding that behind the chores of the job there is a personal contribution to be made to all the men and families living in a foreign country away from their own people. A good Christian shopkeeper might well fit the bill.

A warden and an assistant will be responsible for, say, a dozen German domestic staff, for operating the canteen, family shop, bookshop and newspaper round, taking the mobile canteen out to the troops engaged in exercises somewhere in the neighbourhood, stock-taking periodically and

keeping the club accounts. This may sound tedious and a little formidable, but any intelligent, methodical, willing person can master it. It is not necessary to speak German; to hold a driving licence is an advantage.

Accommodation is provided free, of course, and an ample messing allowance, plus a variable salary, brings the total remuneration in line with the civilian Toc H staff.

Leave to the U.K. is allowed every six months, fares paid, and five weeks' leave a year is the total.

If you know anyone who might be interested to explore further the possibility of joining the Toc H Services' Staff, will you put them in touch with the Services' Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3.

A POPERINGE OCCASION

To comply with Belgian law, Talbot House is held for Toc H by a Belgian Association consisting of Belgian and British members. The association meets annually at Talbot House, and the meeting last September was graced by the presence of the British and American Consuls-General from Antwerp, who had driven to Poperinge on purpose to see the Old House. The occasion obviously merited a photograph.



Het Weltevrijds Nieuws

In the Old House garden. (Standing) M. Sylvain Lahaye (Hon. Sec. of the Belgium Talbot House Association), Miss Elsa Perrin, M. Covemucker, M. Verstruete, Sid Thresher, Mr. Wilson (U.S. Consul General), Leslie Gosden, M. Blanckaert, M. Behey, Jack Clark. (Seated) Geoff Martin, Mme. Marcelle Lahaye, M. de Sagher (Burgomaster of Poperinge), Mr. H. M. Pullar (H.M. Consul General).



An impression of Dor Knap from the drawing by J. A. Davies

Dor Knap

1960 was a good year for Dor Knap. Thanks largely to CHARLES and KATE YOUNG, who for most of the year acted as Wardens, great progress was made not only with the work on the chapel, the garden and on road-reconstruction, but in the creation of a warm spirit of hospitality that somehow is both friendly and challenging.

GEORGE and DOROTHY ATKINSON who have succeeded them have settled in happily and have already made many friends. George is an old hand in Toc H. He has been an Area and District Chairman and an active Branch member in Melton Mowbray. He was for a time on the Central Executive. Dorothy, who until recently has been teaching, brings both a quiet charm and many unassuming gifts of mind and spirit to the service of Toc H. Under their care Dor Knap will, without doubt, continue to play an increasingly valuable part in the life of the Family.


A list of 1961 bookings is printed on the opposite page. It will be seen that in addition to the usual bookings by Areas, Districts, etc., there are to be six Central Weeks (shown in bold type). **Applications for places in these parties are now invited and should be addressed to the leaders of the party concerned.**

DOR KNAP BOOKINGS, 1961

W/E	January 20-22	EAST AND SOUTH EAST LONDON AREAS
W/E	March 3-5	LINCOLNSHIRE AREA
W/E	March 11-12	BIRMINGHAM BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION (Assist. Dist. Commissioner's Conference)
W/E	March 17-19	GUARDS OF THE LAMP CONFERENCE
W/E	March 24-26	SOUTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
	March 31-April 3	Easter Weekend
W	April, Wed. 5-12	SCHOOLS' WEEK 'A' (Leader: Ken Prideaux-Brune)
W	April, Wed. 12-19	SCHOOLS' WEEK 'B' (Leader: W. R. Elliot)
W/E	April 21-23	MID-COTSWOLD DISTRICT
W/E	April 28-30	CHIPPENHAM DISTRICT & BEDS. & HERTS. AREA
	May 1-5	PADRES' CONFERENCE (Mon.-Fri.)
W/E	May 5-7	WESTERN AREA EXECUTIVE
W/E	May 12-14	CENTRAL EXECUTIVE
Whit	Monday (May 22)	OPEN DAY
W/E	May 26-28	BORDON COMPANY
	May 28-June 2	For Pilots and others (Leader: Rev. Jim Davies) (Sun.-Fri.)
W/E	June 2-4	EAST MIDLANDS AND WESTERN AREA
W/E	June 9-11	SOUTH WESTERN AND EAST LONDON AREAS
W/E	June 16-18	SOUTH WALES DIVISION
	June 19-23	WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION STAFF CONFERENCE
W/E	June 23-25	A Weekend for Jobmasters (Leader: Alec Churcher)
	June 30-July 1	STUBBINGS C.E.M.S.
W	July 1-8	NORTHERN, LAKELAND & SCOTLAND AREAS
W	July 8-15	YORKSHIRE AND O. AND T.V. AREAS
W	July 15-22	NOTTS. & DERBY AREA & N. WALES DIVN.
W	July 22-29	For Young Members (Leaders: Alan Hill and Ray Fabes)
W	July 29-Aug. 5	SCHOOLS' WEEK 'C' (Leaders: W. R. Elliot and Alan Hill)
W	August 5-12	SCHOOLS' WEEK 'D'
W	August 12-19	"The Life and Work of a Branch" (Leader: Alec Churcher)
W	August 19-26	MARKSMEN AND OTHERS (Leader: Alan Hill)
W	Aug. 26-Sept. 2	For Older Leaders (Leader: John Callf)
W	September 2-9	"Where do we go from here?" (Leader: Iain Fraser)
W/E	September 9-10	NORTH AND SOUTH BRISTOL DISTRICTS
	September 12-14	RANAGAZOO
W/E	September 16-17	EAST MIDLANDS AREA
W	September 23-30	KENT, SUSSEX, MANCHESTER & N.W. AREAS
W/E	Sept. 30-Oct. 1	WEST MIDLANDS AREA
W/E	October 6-8	BEDS. & HERTS. AREA & CHIPPENHAM DIST.
W/E	October 13-15	WEST MIDLANDS AREA
W/E	October 20-22	SECOND 'ALBEMARLE REPORT' CONFERENCE (Leader: Alec Churcher)
W/E	October 27-29	WESTERN AREA

W/E=Weekend.

W=Complete week.



FROM ALL PARTS direct from areas

WEST YORKSHIRE

from Ron Smith

Public Speaking Competitions have been popular in several Districts so we thought it might be worth trying from the whole Area. Only eight Branches participated in the preliminary competition in Branch meetings, but as one Branch selected two for the Area Competition, the names of nine orators were sent in for the "big do" on November 12. By the morning of that day four men had to withdraw owing to shift work, bereavement in the family, and a visit to Dor Knap which clashed with the date of the Competition. Five men presented themselves for the ordeal which took place in Harehills Congregational Church Hall, Leeds.

I saw the adjudicators' comments, and was relieved that I had not entered to speak before such sincere, critical, judges. Ten minutes was allowed for each speech on the subject "What Toc H means to me", and it was the exercise of the strictest personal discipline that resulted in all but one going more than half a minute over time. All the speeches were of a high-standard. Stan Goodliffe of Hallam, was awarded the trophy, a Silver Rose Bowl kindly given by an anonymous friend. Well done, Stan, well done Hallam, and congratulations to the others for their splendid effort.

Most Branches have an Annual Rededication Service in the Branch room, or in the church of their Padre. When Branches do not visit other Branches for their Rededication Service they have one annual 'Occasion'. The Area Secretary or Padre cannot attend all the Services in the Area in the course of a year, but did attend the Rededication Service of Ossett Branch a few nights ago, and how it rained! Ossett haven't a Padre, but the Service was held in a Baptist Church by the kindness of the deacons. The Order of Service was the first surprise. I had thought to receive a copy of Service bought from Headquarters, but no, the one handed to me by a friendly steward, was quite different. It had been composed by a member of the Branch, was tastefully printed (and clean!). I actually had to follow the Service paper with intelligence, which aided me in my worship. The Pilot conducted the simple Service, with relaxed dignity, and a scripture lesson was read by a member; just those two. Many services have been spoilt for me by so many chaps popping up and down. The hymns were well chosen and sung. The charge was effective in impact and challenge in at least one member of the congregation who was so pleased to sit in a pew with nothing to do but quietly worship God and dedicate life to Him.

SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

A recent four-day visit to the Area by Geoff Martin proved most stimulating and helpful. Training meetings plus a visit to LOOE for their 25th Birthday enabled us to use Geoff to the full and the benefits of his visit will be felt for many months to come.

A notable occasion at CHARD was the occasion of the presentation of the Freedom of Chard to 'Doc' Fawcus, a stalwart of the Chard Branch. This was followed by a Civic Service at which Tubby preached, and the occasion served as a focus for a gathering together of Branches far and near.

Congratulations to CULLOMPTON on their attainment of Branch status—long may they continue in the Fellowship.



Kent Messenger

Members and friends at the Annual Rededication of St. John's Branch, Sevenouks.

BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fabes

Following the Area Rally as reported by our scribe in the last JOURNAL, members from all corners of the Area certainly have been making every effort to meet their brethren, in slightly more serious vein during the last month.

Taking the headlines of course is the Area's first ever party to Dor Knap where the mixture of men, fireworks and work plus discussion made an excellent weekend. Then there has been our Training afternoon in St. Albans where we were pleased to welcome Mayne Elson to lead our Pilots in a little training in Rediscovering Toc H—in the present surroundings, also leading very capably some very profitable discussions.

The first footsteps have been taken with a view to extension in Buckingham, and also the Women's Association have prodded us into action at HATFIELD, so any contacts at either of these places will be welcomed by the Area Secretary.

Everyone I know is pleased to see 'Dave' from Bedford back with us again with a vengeance. 'His' group at GOLDINGTON, I am sure, is going to make us sit up and take notice very shortly.

FROM ALL PARTS

SCOTLAND

from Reg Stewart

Murdo MacTaggart writes that one Wednesday afternoon of last month NAIRN TOC H OLD FOLK'S CLUB entertained to tea and a concert, about 100 friends from sister clubs, one in Inverness and the other in Elgin. Inverness has paid several visits to Nairn already and Nairn returned these, but Elgin were making their first visit.

The Provost of Nairn was chairman and the Nairn W.A. Branch of Toc H, along with members of the Welfare Committee, arranged the hall and prepared and served tea.

On Remembrance Sunday some eighteen members of the Nairn Branch Women's Association and the two Men's Branches attended the local Congregational Church, whose Minister, Rev. L. Seager, is a member of Nairn Branch.

WEST MIDLANDS

from Bob Purdy

The Area Team together with the Central Councillors held a weekend at Dor Knap. Discussions ranged from work of District Teams; training; Toc H literature; propaganda; recruitment; to the best use of the Branch meeting; Area Festivals and Guest Nights. Two resolutions go forward to the Central Council as a result.

WULFRUN District have become involved in the local Child Psychology unit and are finding the manpower of the District extended in a fascinating job of work. Some of the families already visited are being collected and taken to the District Christmas party. They are also making arrangements for a Camp for needy children during next summer.

NORTH WORCESTER District held a Guest-Night at Wordsley at which the Toc H film *A Lamp Burns* was the centre of the evening's programme, and the attendance was excellent. The WORDSLEY youth club, as a token of thanks to the local Branch who have helped them in the Club activities, served refreshments.

NORTH COTSWOLD District held their first District Dinner, so well done that a repeat is sure to follow. HEDNESFORD Branch held an 'Old Boys' night and nine former members were present to share 'gossip and grub'.

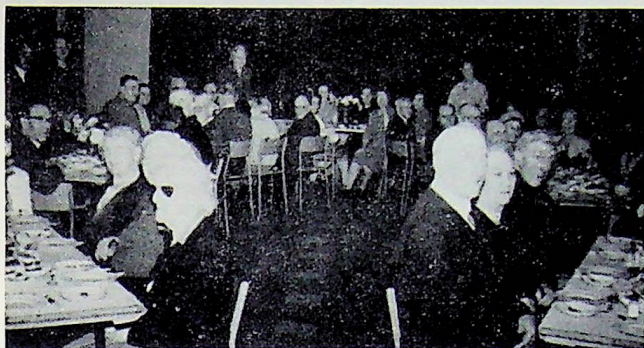
ALVECHURCH have had their first family evening: now the wives know a little of what their menfolk do on the 'Toc H night'. WYCHALL FARM ESTATE group, having seen a need on the part of younger boys on the estate, met the Birmingham Federation Boys' Club Secretary and the local Headmaster to discuss the situation. They have their first Boys' Club meeting this month. ALDRIDGE group have now contacted the local welfare worker and discovered that there is much to do for the old and physically handicapped people in this new and fast growing industrial town north of Birmingham.

DROITWICH Branch held their Annual Christmas Carol service, the proceeds from which go to BELRA. Robin Dunford, West Midlands' BELRA Organiser, was the speaker, and the service was led by the local Baptist minister. EDGBASTON Branch celebrated the re-opening of their headquarters after the recent fire which destroyed most of the interior of the hut. Among the guests were members from nearby Branches and from the Old People's Club who use the hut regularly for week-night activities.

NORTH WESTERN

from Jack Shaw

The big event of the past month was the first birthday party of WEST KIRBY BEACON. About two hundred members and local friends including the chief citizens, turned out to see the venture safely launched. George Eustance, who has acted as pivotal man of the new unit, was in the chair and the Area Chairman, D. I. McPhail brought the good wishes of the Toc H Family, while A. J. Stears, Wirral District Pilot, presented the Lamp to the new Branch. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the first showing in the North of the Toc H film *A Lamp Burns*.



The Old Folks' Party given by Leytonstone Toc H and W.A. Branches. Names of the guests were supplied by a local doctor, and the concert given by a party specialising in old-time music hall songs.

EAST MIDLANDS

from D. B. Manning

Since PETERBOROUGH District started a Social Services Fund, some twelve years ago in a very modest form, it has, like Topsy, just grown. The yearly commitments are now in the region of £250 and the whole of the Fund is supported by local firms and individuals, together with contributions, by means of collecting cards and special efforts, by our two local W.A. Branches. This has enabled us to carry-out a wide programme of service to the crippled, invalid and sick, to underprivileged children, the lonely and the aged, without tapping in any way our own Family Purse.

NORTH WALES

from Gwilym Edwards

A Spring Festival is being arranged in the Division for Saturday, March 25, which it is hoped will be a further link in the chain of very successful and distinctive festivals held in the Division in the past ten years. The afternoon service will be at that most famous of tourist spots The Marble Church, Bodellwydden, near St. Asaph, where an old friend of Toc H, Dr. Bartlett, is the Bishop. The evening session will be at Rhyl, on the coast, where the magnificent Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Camp will be at our disposal. Iain Fraser will be the guest speaker. Arrangements are being made for pilgrims travelling distances to be accommodated overnight.

MARCHES

from T. Romanis

WELLINGTON Branch members helped to illuminate the Wrekin countryside when they met at the Vineyard Children's Home on November 5; a huge bonfire was lit and the fireworks provided by Toc H, were much appreciated by the children and the staff.

The recent OFFA'S DYKE District Flower Show held at Chirk, which provided a gift of over £11 to the Family Purse, is likely to become an annual event. Apart from its value as a Special Effort it was a great social success and the family spirit was of the highest order.

OSWESTRY Branch took the Old Folks on an outing around the hills of Llangollen where they enjoyed a supper of fish and chips.

WESTERN LONDON

from Mayne Elson

Life at MARK II seems to have been a long string of parties during the year just ended. Reason: The Mark started in 1920, so it was "Fortieth Anniversary Year". The Hon. Warden and Marksmen received many guests at a series of receptions, culminating in a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on November 8. The Dean of Westminster conducted the service and 'Tubby', the Founder Padre, was present. And now—here's to the next forty years!

EAST YORKSHIRE

from Bill Hardy

Perhaps the most interesting piece of news to come my way this month concerns 'People to People' Week. Both the Men's and Women's Branches of Toc H in York were represented on the committee which arranged an informal meeting in the Friends' Meeting House, York, on November 22.

Three hundred letters of invitation to people from overseas were widely distributed and 150 letters were sent to secretaries of organisations and others asking for their support. The matron of every hospital in the city was asked to pass on invitations to student nurses.

Over 100 people were present from over twenty different countries, as well as three who signed themselves as coming from Scotland! Two ladies from Austria were in national costume, and excluding committee members, there was almost an equal balance between people from York and those from overseas.

When the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of York appeared they were served with coffee by Fraulein J. Stover, who hails from Munster, York's twin city. The Lord Mayor (Alderman W. Ward) made a short speech of welcome and then he and the Lady Mayoress moved from group to group chatting with everyone. Before leaving they were thanked by Miss O. Lashly, a student nurse from Barbados. Representatives of the two International Clubs (Miss Muirhead Smith and Mrs. Roper) spoke briefly about the meetings and activities of their clubs and an open invitation was given to all by the International Club to their next meeting as a 'follow-up' of the evening.

The new CLIFTON Group in York were presented with their Rushlight at a World Chain of Light Service held in St. Luke's Church. The Rushlight was handed over by Fred Farmer, Jobmaster of York Branch.

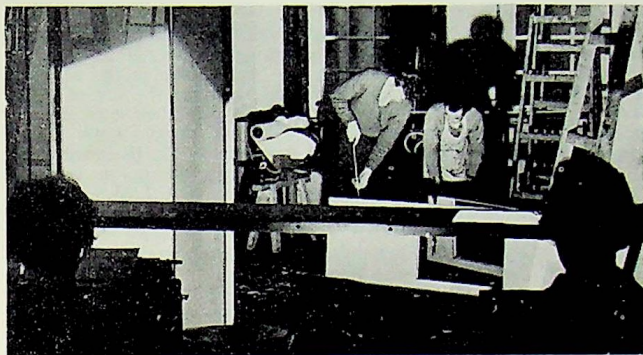
SOUTH WALES

from Ken Wright

It was a tonic! The Monmouthshire Divisional Rally held at Griffithstown last month. We met at the Church of St. Hilda's, where we were addressed by the Archbishop of Wales, a Founder Member of Toc H. He spoke of his association with the Movement over the past thirty-two years.

"The Spirit in which we must serve is that debt we pay for our room on earth, something which is a bounden duty and joy", he said. "We must not have a small or limited idea of the scope of our service. Our lives are knit together and the room in which we live on earth covers the world and we should take as wide a view as possible."

After tea, John MacMillan, the Western Area Secretary, gave a splendid talk and a session of 'joyful noises' led by three members of Griffithstown followed.



'Skegg' Blanchard

Picture shows folding partitions being erected at the new Toc H Headquarters, adapting the assembly room into reception and typing rooms when not required for meetings.

NORTHERN LONDON

from Mayne Elson

London now has its first Joint Branch. It all began with a Guest-night held by TOTTENHAM Branch in the Devonshire Hill Library Hall in October, 1957, when Alec Churcher was the speaker and the guests were both men and women. Some of each attended a follow-up meeting held shortly afterwards and they decided to form themselves into a joint group. This has been an active unit with a good spirit, but it attracted more women than men. At the same time WOOD GREEN (men's) Branch was getting into difficulties. The members stuck to their jobs through thick and thin, but they found it hard going running meetings as well. So now the two have joined forces and been recognised as WOOD GREEN & DEVONSHIRE HILL JOINT BRANCH. Good luck to them!

This Branch offers to lend to anyone paying postage both ways a tape-recording entitled "For and Against Mixed Units". Requests to Mrs. Joan Spencer, 67 Weir Hall Avenue, Edmonton. N.18.

EASTERN LONDON

from Jim Green

An exceptionally interesting evening was enjoyed by RAYLEIGH when the daughter of the Branch Treasurer showed coloured films taken during her two years' duty as a nurse with the Sir Wilfred Grenfell Hospital and Settlement in Labrador. There were pictures of redskins and white-skins, of grown-ups and children, of hospitals and dispensaries amid the arctic snow and of every kind of transport—ship, aircraft, tractor, dog-sledge and even parachute—used to carry the patients and the hospital staff.

Many months ago EPPING group were presented with a hut, but they had to remove it and rebuild it on another site. At last the work is finished and a housewarming has been held. The group will welcome visitors and friends on Friday evenings at 8 p.m. in their cosy and brightly decorated Toc H Hut, St. John's Road, Epping.

LINCOLNSHIRE

from George Lee

Man may not yet be able to move mountains, but proof of what men can do, if convinced of the purpose of Toc H and determined in faith to give of their best, has been shown in the progress in this Area. In many Branches new life has been the joy of older members through allowing new members to gain their own experience in Toc H, and often turning the Branch upside down in the process. This has perhaps been most in evidence at HUMBERSTONE, an outer suburb of Grimsby and Cleethorpes where, in addition to the usual societies and local organisations, a C.E.M.S. and an inter-denominational Men's Association, both flourishing, already existed. Doubts were expressed as to the advisability of seeking to extend in that place. One man persisted and was given the 'go ahead' which he did, virtually alone.

Now after several months' insistent but prayerful work he gradually sees his plan materialising, for the friends at Humberstone are applying for recognition as a group. The moral is perhaps simple; if every District Team could find one man equally convinced and equally prepared to do the spade-work, we still might not be able to move mountains but we would be scaling greater and more adventurous heights.

SOUTHERN LONDON

from Mayne Elson

N.A.G.S.—the "Good Samaritan" body which was started by NEW ADDINGTON Toc H—have again organised a house-to-house collection of non-perishable foodstuffs "for re-distribution" (as they put it) "to the old folk of New Addington". Fifteen people (not all Toc H members) carried out the following programme: November 26-27—Delivery of a leaflet at each of 6,000 houses asking for contributions, with a promise to call again the following weekend. December 3—A call at every house to collect gifts (and, of course, provision of transport for same). December 4—Another call at all those houses where no one was in the previous day. Just before Christmas—Distribution of 310 parcels to 400 old people (married couples got one larger parcel instead of two separate ones). Each parcel included a beautiful Christmas-card, hand-made and presented by children from the local schools. Truly a major operation!

Vision to Reality

JOHN COX

A story of the building of a Chapel, in three months,
in the Toc H Services' Club at Paderborn, Germany, by
a few Servicemen

IT ALL STARTED when the billiard table was going to be returned to its original place and our Sunday evening service would have to find a new room.

Space is at a premium in the Toc H Club at Paderborn, so we had two alternatives: one to seriously curtail our Sunday meetings, which was impracticable as we were then just getting a fair number in attendance; or two, to convert another room or some available space into a chapel.

The original idea to build the chapel in the attic came from JACK CARROTT, the Warden of the Club, and over many cups of tea the idea and its effect on the future was discussed. After permission from the Army Authorities had been obtained, we asked BOB PRESTON, the Toc H Commissioner, B.A.O.R., if he would allow us a grant towards the cost of conversion. To our relief he allowed us to spend up to £50. To date the total cost is £30, and there are only minor details to finish.

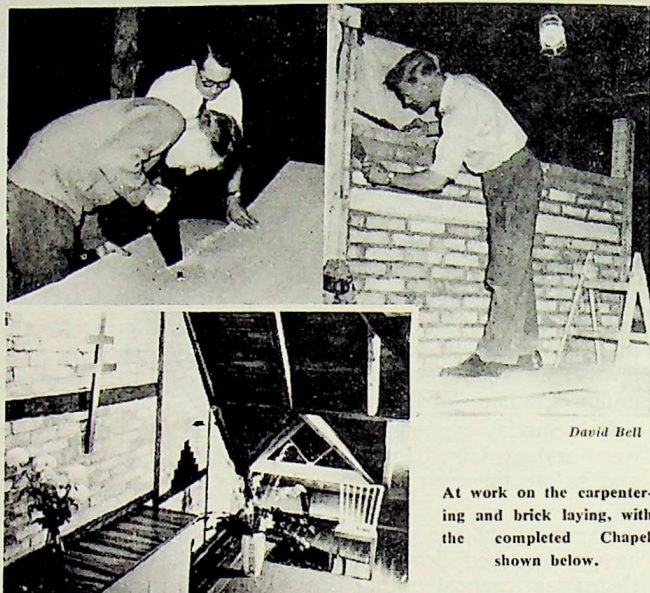
One Sunday evening in July the general idea was put forward and explained to the fellows who came to the service, and before the evening was out they were in the attic planning.

Every bit of the work was done by the lads who, after having knocked down three walls, provided a bricklayer, electrician, carpenters and general odd-job men. Because of the fact that we are all in different units of the Army, Toc H type of work cannot easily be done and it was because of this that we all set to work with such enthusiasm. Each night visitors to the canteen would see the scruffiest, dirtiest and dustiest figures loaded with buckets of rubble descending and then climbing the stairs. For many days the Club resounded to the noise of hammer blows and the occasional cloud of dust.

Once the walls were down and the bricks had been cleared, the actual building started. The wall went up with the altar supports, and the alcove for the communion vessels.

As we belonged to different units it was difficult to continue work, and more than once work was halted due to Army exercises and various duties. However, a Committee was formed and it was they who worked out a plan for work and finally decided on the design. This they did in close consultation with the Padre and Jack Carrott.

October 18 was the dead line and by dint of hard labour and late hours, it was finished the night before.



David Bell

At work on the carpentering and brick laying, with the completed Chapel shown below.

On October 19, with a very simple dedication in company with twelve German boys of our own age-group, the Padre, the Rev. C. Derbyshire, conducted the first of many services.

It was a wonderful moment and we who built it were very proud that, because of Jack Carrott's initial idea, drive and enthusiasm, we now had the only chapel in Toc H Services' Clubs in Germany.

For those who wonder what the Clubs do in Germany, perhaps I had better explain to you what goes on.

They provide a canteen and facilities for our spare time in an atmosphere that we can forget about the Army. The

shop is the only source of daily newspapers and magazines in the garrison as well as providing photographic facilities and an excellent shop for souvenirs and sweets. There is a library, snooker room, darts, facilities for playing records, a piano, a quiet room, and the inevitable but popular juke-box!

We find, however, that these things are taken for granted by the patrons and we wished to get them to realise what Toc H was. To this end our Sunday evening fellowship was formed. It started with a few people but now attracts around twenty each Sunday. They gather at 7 p.m. for a service, after which coffee, tea and biscuits are served. Following this comes the main event of the evening. This may be one of our own members or guests talking about his hobby or job, a debate or discussion on some religious subject, film show or colour slides, or record appreciation evenings.

Due to our differing work it is very difficult to carry out any 'real' Toc H work, but with our Sunday meetings we gather in true Christian fellowship so characteristic of Toc H.

'Little Lamps, and Constancy'

JOYCE GREEN

A SMALL REPLICA of the Lamp of Maintenance, pinned to a coat, suit or dress, introduces a member of Toc H Women's Association. The early history of the women's part is to be found in *The Curious History of Toc H Women's Association: The First Phase 1917-1928*, written by Miss A. B. S. MACFIE and published in 1956. To coincide with the recent Festival was published the Founder Pilot's record of the women's progress, under various titles, through the war years and up to the present time.*

Festivals have played not only a picturesque and inspiring part in Toc H, but have frequently cut the pattern for the future. In *A Carol for the Lamps of the Magnificat*, written by TUBBY for an early Women's Association Festival, came the words "Give courage, little Lamps, and constancy", while at the Festival in March 1939, Queen ELIZABETH, the patron, spoke of the "qualities we need most today, namely, courage and steadiness of purpose".

* *The Further History of Toc H Women's Association*, by A. B. S. Macfie (Toc H W.A., 15s. 0d.).

So, at the beginning of a year that brought the disruptions of war, women everywhere took on new and hitherto unknown duties, proving those qualities of courage and steadiness of purpose. With men away in the Services, the women kept going and often kept Toc H going too. The book tells of women members' work with Services Clubs throughout the country, and also the Married Couples Services Club in



Miss A. B. S. Macfie
 Founder Pilot, Toc H Women's Association.

Kensington. Of Pilgrim House in the Orkneys, which became a place of rest and recuperation for men who were suffering from shock, shipwreck or exposure. In bomb-shattered London we have a vivid account of the constant removals from shelter to shelter as more buildings were destroyed each night, and wherever our women moved around Tower Hill, there was the tea urn, and biscuits, for A.R.P. workers and refugees from other shelters. A Lunch Club continued at 42 Crutched Friars even when the

house was without gas, water and electricity.

In a chapter entitled "The Nineteen-Fifties", Miss Macfie writes:—

"It is a far cry and a rather bewildering journey to travel in one short volume from the first Lamplighting of a small handful of enthusiastic girls (whose greatest asset had to be their self-effacement) to the middle nineteen-fifties where the cold light of day shows a picture of a different quality which is decidedly more grown-up. In fact, we see a society emerging into maturity, taking its part (a small part for we are still not a large body) in studying and helping to come to grips with some of the problems of the world today. It is also a society which no longer feels it must hide its lamp under a bushel, but which, not being afraid to show its Light, leads the way and branches out freely on its own. Being a movement it moves."

We continue to read of activities at home and overseas, of new work undertaken with guests from overseas, particularly befriending nurses from West Africa and the West

Indies; of interest in, and practical help for refugees; the study of ecumenicity, where a booklet produced by Miss MARIANNE TURNER, the then Women's Association Chaplain, was used widely inside the Movement and also by church and other study circles.

Tubby provides the first words in the book, "Toc H is the most natural thing in the world, growing, as we commonly believe, under the direction of a power beyond us all; and the most natural thing in the world must of necessity be not solely a brotherhood, but wholly a family." Let a woman have the last word; please read the book for yourself

'Ecumaniacs'

LEONARD RIVETT

DID YOU KNOW that there are more Inter-Church Youth Groups in Great Britain than there are Councils of Churches? Many young Christians are impatient, with the enthusiasm of youth, with the present disunity of the Christian Church and are taking the initiative in ecumenical activity on a local level.

I was privileged to be present at the launching of an Inter-Church Youth Group in York at a weekend conference. Although there were only fourteen young people present (Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists and Friends) there was no lack of interest amongst members of other churches, and the number was small only through practical considerations. It was a 'do-it-yourself' conference with no staff, which made for greater fellowship and helped people to get to know each other much quicker.

The initiative was taken by a young Methodist, who had attended a Youth Conference which had been held by the Youth Department of the British Council of Churches, in 1959. He spread the concern among members of his own Church from which came the committee which made the arrangements for the conference. How I became involved is another story but it was a tremendously exhilarating experience to be amongst such young people, in whom the Holy Spirit is so obviously at work. Remember that it is such young people who will be leaders of the different Churches in twenty or thirty years' time.

The conference sessions were deliberately very informal although there were two talks, on "What do we mean by Unity?" and "The World and the British Councils of Churches", and two Film Strips issued by the B.C.C. were shown. We listened to a challenging message which was recorded by Philip Race, Chairman of the Youth Department of the B.C.C., and recorded accounts from the Inter-Church Youth Groups at Coventry, Bristol and Hull.

With the permission of the Archbishop of York (which he is allowed to give under the rules of Convocation at conferences for the promotion of Unity) communicant members of the Free Churches were invited to receive Holy Communion at an Anglican Service. Most of them did so and in this way we were drawn closer together in Christ than otherwise would have been possible. We realise that because of our divisions such sharing together is not normally possible but it was a foretaste of what Unity means and also a spur to greater efforts to achieve it.

One of the most exciting sessions was Bible Study when the movement of the Spirit was very evident. We shared together in prayer and worship, as well as in food, and in fun.

Common experience

It is a common experience among such groups that as the members came together for fellowship and study they feel the need to perform jobs of service for others. In Service they then find new ways of getting to know each other and are drawn closer together, and find a deeper level of fellowship. This is, of course, the method of Toc H and the list of jobs (decorating rooms for old people, shopping for the house-bound, visiting hospitals, gardening, running a social evening in a Home), sounds like a Jobmaster's report. It is a sign of our failure to get alongside young people that they have to find it out for themselves. They are having the same experience and feeling the same urge of service that so many find for the first time within Toc H.

During one session everyone in turn said why he or she belonged to his or her particular Church. Most said that they had been "conditioned" in childhood—without the usual overtones associated with the word today. It was during this session that we learnt much about our different Churches. Members of the Free Churches learnt that the Anglicans are not so bound by tradition and formalism as they thought,

and Anglicans learnt that the Free Churches are perhaps not quite so 'free' as they thought. We were surprised to learn that what Anglicans mean by Baptism and Confirmation is very much what is meant by 'Believers Baptism', and we all agreed that personal faith and the acceptance of Christ's teaching was necessary before becoming the full member of any Church. The different ways of worship, use of the Creeds, Church Government, the Ministry, and many other things, were touched on in discussion. We decided that at some time we would have to look into what is meant by Ecumenical activity as distinct from Interdenominational Co-operation.

The conference was truly Christian and we were one together "in Christ" although divided by our unhappy divisions. As a direct result of the weekend, an Inter-Church Youth Group has been formed in York and one of the first things to be arranged was an inter-church open air Carol Service a few days before Christmas.

The Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ALLMARK.—Suddenly, on October 19, BERNARD WILLIAM ALLMARK, aged 33, a member of Withington Branch. Elected 7.5.'53.

CURNOCK.—On November 1, PERCY EDWARD CURNOCK, aged 79, an original member and for many years secretary of Hammersmith Branch. Elected 1.7.'20.

FROST.—On November 10, Major CYRIL CHARLES JAMES FROST, aged 66, the Pilot of Hayling Island Branch. Elected 19.5.'58.

HILL.—On November 22, FRANCIS ADAM HILL, aged 67, a founder member of Market Rasen Branch. Elected 9.5.'31.

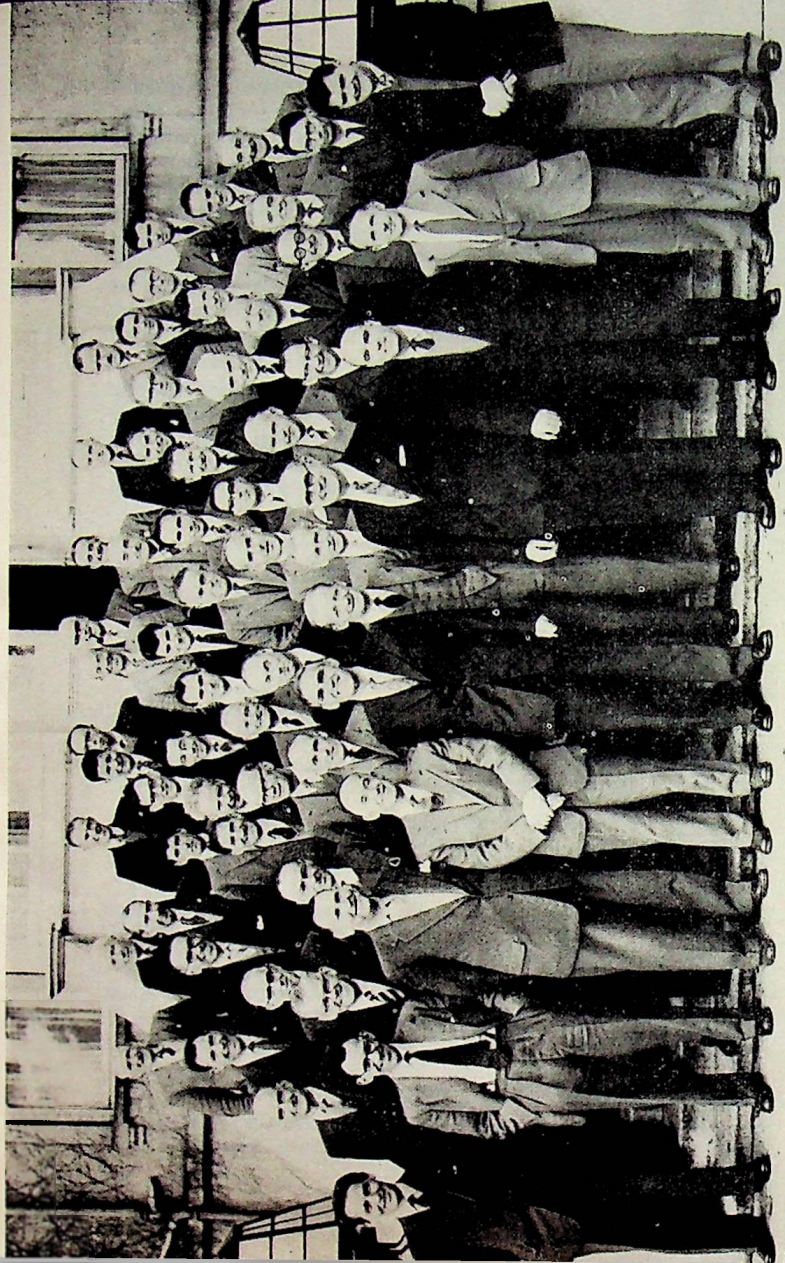
HOWARD.—On November 23, at Westonbirt, the Rev. Canon ROBERT WILMOT HOWARD, aged 73, formerly Headmaster of Liverpool College and a member of the North Western Area Executive. Elected 1.1.'22.

MCDONALD.—Suddenly, on November 20, ALEXANDER McDONALD, M.B.E., J.P., aged 82, a member of Selkirk Branch. Elected 1.12.'46.

OXLEY-BRENNAN.—In a car crash in Kenya, JOHN OXLEY-BRENNAN, aged 23, a member of Mark 1 Branch. Elected 18.8.'58.

SANSOM.—On November 5, WILLIAM JOHN SANSOM, aged 86, a member of Eynsford Branch. Elected 10.10.'31.

SHREEVE.—Suddenly, on November 8, JOSEPH WILLIAM SHREEVE, aged 72, a member of Leighton Buzzard Branch. Elected 19.10.'59.



Members at the Melrose Training Conference, organised by the Border District Team.

R. Clapperton, Solicitor

Melrose Conference

BOB SCOTT

A MOST SUCCESSFUL one-day training conference was held by the BORDER DISTRICT TEAM in the Waverley Hotel, Melrose, on Sunday, October 30, 1960. Over sixty members attended including, in addition to the strong Border contingent, representatives from Blackridge, Dunfermline, Prestonpans and Stirling. The Scottish Executive was also well represented. The Chairman of the Border District Team, HECTOR INNES, Kelso, presided and said that the Border Area had been asked to organise the first training conference in Scotland following consideration by the Central Executive of the need to institute the principle of regular training. Considerable planning had gone into the arrangements for this first conference and it had been decided to concentrate on training in the methods of Toc H and problems at Branch level. The conference was, to some degree, experimental and it was hoped that, with experience, some basic form of training syllabus could be found for succeeding conferences in other Scottish areas.

Need for training

The Conference got off to a flying start with an impressive service conducted by the Rev. O. L. S. DOVER, a former member of Ladhope, Galashiels Branch. The training session was opened with an excellent talk by IAIN FRASER, the Lakeland Area Secretary. While appearing to be concentrating on day-to-day problems of method he was able to link the principles of Toc H to these problems. He referred to the fact that the Central Executive recognised that training in Toc H was required. This Conference was the first organised in Scotland to meet this need, and it was hoped that it would lead to further conferences throughout the Area and would set a pattern. He had been asked to deal as far as possible with training in the methods of Toc H with particular emphasis on Branch problems and ways and means of dealing with these. He intended to do so, as far as he could, but it was not possible without also referring to the basic principle of the movement. Toc H was not determined by figures but

by effective service and its existence as a means of leading men towards a way of life firmly founded on basic moral principles.

Three tendencies

Regarding Toc H at the present time, there were three tendencies. Firstly, we seemed to be satisfied with Branches of twelve or less; secondly, Branches tended to be inadequate in mixture; and thirdly a lack of clarity as to what we were trying to do. Sixty per cent of Branches had twelve or less members and if to this was added a lack of diversity of types of men the ideal of fellowship was bound to be restricted. Many members were vague as to the purpose of Toc H and could only say that it was there to 'do good'. The first concern was to create a close fellowship of men pledged to try to live according to the highest principles. Having achieved this strong bond of 'togetherness' the means of expressing the way of living by example to others would be provided automatically. To achieve this bond of fellowship every man should be used to his fullest capacity and particular flair. A Branch should become knowledgeable in the problems of its Area, ascertain what needed doing and work towards doing it. They would find that there was more than enough for everyone to do. This way of looking at Toc H immensely broadened the whole approach of a Branch and placed the 'doing good' part of the work in proper perspective.

Devil's trap

What were we inviting a man to join? A meeting? A debating society? To hear a good speaker? This was a devil's trap. Toc H meant men to meet one another and to overcome the habitual reserve we all display as a defence front. He must be shown that in Toc H he can express himself in word and deed without the need for this automatic defence mechanism.

There should be time at every meeting to develop and advance the ideal of intimate fellowship and that each man becomes a vital part of the Branch. The short-term target was hostmanship. Welcome and tell the new member the vision of Toc H through the ideal of family. Invite him, in fact, to a fellowship meeting. Teach him by example, by his working alongside you, to achieve his place in the Branch.

Iain referred in detail to some of the great problems of our time. The problem of youth, the earlier maturity of young people and the advantages and difficulties of this. The problems of automation and redundancy, large-scale movement of workers to new homes. The Welfare State could only deal with the mechanics of need. It was for others to provide the human relationship and personal touch. We must distinguish between propaganda and truth. Does the end justify the means? To reach a goal are we justified in lowering our standards? No propaganda could obscure the truth if it was diligently sought. Truth was unchanging and he asked us to press on with our vision undimmed.

Air of purpose

Iain's talk was a magnificent lead off to the discussion that followed, and it was of absorbing interest to the organisers to move between the four groups and to experience the air of purpose throughout the discussions. Four questions were discussed by each group: (1) How would you set about starting a new Branch?: (2) How would you guide a probationer to full participation in the Branch?: (3) Should Branches accept the need for full participation in the wider organisation of Toc H: and (4) Should each member take a part in all Branch activities excluding jobs?

We were fortunate in our choice of group leaders. In addition to expert steering of the discussions we were treated to admirable summaries from each when we again gathered for continued general discussion. The group leaders—PAT BROWNLEE (Selkirk), A. KELLIE (Duns), J. ROBERTSON (Jedburgh) and J. SWANSTON (Ladhope)—were able to show that the questions had resulted in a factual discussion covering most of the general problems confronting a Branch. There had been frank exchange of views and, in some cases, a divergence of opinion.

Problems and views

Primed with what had already been said about Toc H training, the questions were then discussed by the full Conference, led by REG. STEWART, the Scottish Secretary. This was the opportunity for the staff men and members of the Scottish Executive to relate the problems and views put forward by members to the basic principles and objects of

Toc H and right well they did so. Interpreted in day-to-day terms those principles, with which many of us are familiar to the point of forgetting them, took on a new meaning and depth and were invariably the complete answer to our difficulties.

Summing up

Summing up was undertaken by DONALD MACKINTOSH, our former Chairman of the Scottish Executive. Donald, in his own inimitable style, gathered together the threads and in a masterly summary showed how well worth while the Conference had been. He complimented Iain on his talk and his leading out of discussion points which had all been relevant and vital to Toc H today. He also referred to the obvious strength of Toc H in the Borders judged both by the attendance and by the enthusiasm shown. Donald was at his very best in dealing with the points made by individual members during the discussions. He did not hesitate to praise or rebuke and completely justified the District Team's special invitation to sum up.

Pattern set

LYNDSAY ORR, the Scottish Treasurer, who had, with other members of the Scottish Executive, taken a prominent part in the previous discussions, thanked the organisers of the Conference for the most efficient arrangements. He was in no doubt whatever that all present were impressed with the venture and that the Conference had set a pattern which would be of the greatest value to the Executive.

The Ceremony of Light was taken by BOB LIVINGSTON, Scottish Executive Chairman, followed by home-going prayers. Those who were not compelled by long journeys to leave concluded the proceedings by a short session of Community singing led by JACK MILLAR, a Selkirk supporter whom we hope will be persuaded in due course to take a place in the Branch.

While there may have been initial reservations as to the practicability of a training conference, there was no doubt, as the Conference proceeded, that this was something that had been badly needed. The decision to concentrate on methods and on day-to-day problems was also a vital factor, and the repeated emergence of Toc H principles as the background to every Branch activity was a revelation.



OPEN HUSTINGS readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Ceremony of Light

MAY I be allowed to add to the heresies which have already been propagated on the subject of the Ceremony of Light? While warmly supporting the pleas for a revision of the wording of the Ceremony, I would like to go one stage further.

Is there any good reason for taking Light at some more or less appropriate moment at every Toc H meeting of whatever kind? Where two or three Toc H members are gathered together there is Light in the midst of them. Why? I do not deny the value of Light as a form of Remembrance and Rededication, but this elevation of it into the central cult of Toc H seems to me to be mere sentimentality.

I must confess that, in common, I suspect, with other younger members, I have to rack my brains to think of anyone to remember during Light. Most of the older men who have been a real influence on my life, and in whose steps I would like to try and follow, are still alive. Perhaps this colours my feeling on the subject.

Nonetheless I feel that the Ceremony of Light would mean far more if it were held less often. Hold it at irregular intervals in

memory of someone known to the majority of those present. Then it is relevant and meaningful. But don't let's take Light at every meeting simply out of habit.

WORKING MEMBER.

(Name and address supplied).

Calling ex-Marksman

AS Deputy Warden I helped to reopen Mark III after the war and many happy memories were revived for me at the final Guest-night in the old building, now being demolished to make way for a new House. It was obvious to all from the Mayor's tribute that the Mark had done a good job for the Borough and the generous goodwill of guest, Marksman and ex-Marksman alike showed that the spirit of the House was as good as ever.

The old place, I realise, was beyond economic repair, and I am glad that it is to be replaced by such a fine modern building, which I am sure will have as great a future as the old one had a past. The many generous contributions already received are a clear indication that the good thing which was begun forty years ago must be continued.

I am perfectly certain that the Chapel was at the very centre of Mark III life and all Marksman

will remember the inspiration they derived from it. I ask all those who recognise their debt to Mark III to join with me in making the Chapel in the new House their gift to the future.

Various R.A.P.A. Branches and the R.A.F. have subscribed in memory of John Bewley, the last Hon. Warden of the old Mark, a Welfare Officer of the R.A.F.A., who died in the service of the House he loved. I can think of no more fitting symbol of the continuity of Mark III and of its influence upon those privileged to live there.

It is my intention to make personal contact with all those 'in-mates' of Mark III I can trace, but if you are one and not already in touch, will you please write to me, care of Toc H Headquarters, and include the names and addresses of any others known to you?

WILLIAM C. JAKEMAN ('Jakes'). 217 North Road, Preston.

Hospital Visitors

WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL, near Preston, Lancashire, is the largest of its kind in the country. Patients come from Cheshire, Leicestershire, Lancashire, and because of some very modern equipment, to a lesser extent from all over England.

Preston Branch are regular visitors and are establishing a very fine contact with numbers of the patients.

If Branches know of anyone coming to Whittingham and will pass on the information, the Fylde District will make contact and ensure regular visits. Please send details to: W. Eccles, 7 Watson Road, South Shore, Blackpool.

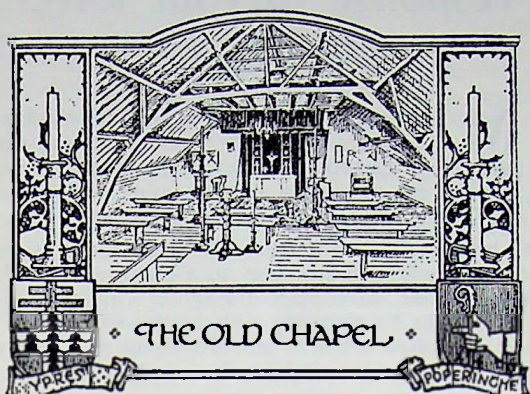
J. G. WARD,
Chairman.

Fylde District Team.

The lines on the opposite page come from *The Witness of a Wayfarer to Talbot House*. This was written in 1917 by Donald Cox, then a rifleman in the 56th Division, and first appeared in the Divisional Journal called *The Direct Hit*. After verses describing the first glimpse of the Old House, the Stairway, the Balcony and Library, the visitor has climbed the last steep, narrow ladder and finds himself suddenly in the old Upper Room where Toc H really began. May these verses from the old Poperinge printing press continue to guide our steps to the Chapel and our minds to the spirit of humble expectant access.

P.B.C.

Copies of the verses opposite, printed on card, can be obtained from Toc H Publications Dept. price sixpence each, post free.



♦ THE OLD CHAPEL ♦

Here is a quiet room.
 Pause for a little space.
 And in the deepening gloom
 With hands before thy face,
 Pray for God's grace.

Let no unholy thought
 Enter thy musing mind.
 Things that the world hath wrought
 Unclean. untrue. unkind.
 Leave them behind.

Pray for the strength of God.
 Strength to obey His plan.
 Rise from thy knees less clad
 Than when thy prayer began.
 More of a man.

'In response to your letter...'

T. A. LAMBERTON

MY WIFE AND I have just finished playing host to two small children from one of the working class districts of London. Our experiences might perhaps prove of some use to anyone contemplating doing the same thing and who is not sure quite what to expect.

It all began following a letter in the JOURNAL asking for anyone who could give a holiday to a child, who would not otherwise get one, to contact a London Organisation. We wrote, hoping to be entrusted with a very small child or a baby, we submitted a potted autobiography and were eventually vetted as to our suitability by a lady visitor.

It was some time before we heard again, but we were eventually approached to accept a small brother and sister aged five and seven years respectively, whose father was out of work and whose mother was being sent on a holiday with two younger children.

The sponsors were very fair and warned us that one of the children was an inveterate bed-wetter and both were difficult to control. With some misgivings we, or rather my wife, consented to give the idea a trial. I left the decision to my wife for I realised that the extra work involved would fall on her shoulders as I was away at work all day.

The day I met our little guests at the nearest railway station was fine but cold, and I saw two little shivering mites with their possessions in a paper carrier coming towards me with a lady helper who had brought them from London.

After a drink and something to eat we took them to our home: both of them very quiet and subdued. There were a few tears from the little girl, but after I had taken them into the garden to collect some apples and after they had made friends with our puppy, things brightened up considerably.

We were worried that the children were television fiends but I was determined to ration their viewing and there were at first glum looks when bed-time came. The beds were prepared with a rubber sheet borrowed from the local Red Cross and they were given hot-water bottles.

The first morning found two wet and bedraggled little children ready for dressing; for the bed and pyjamas were soaked and the constant wet weather made washing and drying difficult. However, on the following morning when I went in to see them it was a different picture; two proud little children greeted me with the news that, "We haven't wet the bed uncle!" In fact during the fortnight they were with us the bed was wet only three times.

My wife and I did eventually find time to examine their pathetic little wardrobes and were shocked to find there was nothing suitable for anything but the warmest weather. By cadging from friends, and one back door visit to a Jumble Sale, they were rigged out with warm clothing and one or two changes at that. Incidentally both children were very clean and well fed and, when they didn't forget, quite polite at the table: the girl acted as a prompter to the boy at times.

It took the best part of a week to break down the little fence which they had put up between us, but when they had done so they turned out to be most affectionate and in the evenings there was keen competition between the children, and the dog, as to who was to sit on my wife's lap! The boy especially wanted his arm constantly round my wife and at times almost smothered her with kisses.

Keeping them amused was at first the trouble but I found that scrap paper and pencils helped. Like an ass, one evening I taught them how to play the well-known kiddies' card game of 'Beat your neighbour' and 'Draw the well dry' and I had a real surfeit of that game. I tried cheating to let them win and to cut down the game but my subterfuge was soon spotted by one or other of them and I had to play the fair, and at times, long way.

Bath night was shared by my wife and myself, looking after the girl and boy respectively, and it was no trouble to get them into the tub where they both enjoyed a wallow in the warm soapy water.

We saw them off at the station when their holiday was over after they had kissed us all goodbye, and the house seemed lacking in something when my wife and I returned there. We still miss them!

Going Places, 1961

PARTIES TO POPERINGE, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

LAST YEAR, although hundreds of members went to Oberammergau, the demand for places in open parties to Poperinge exceeded the places available, and some parties became excessively full. This year the position is very much better, for a variety of visits are to be arranged and the dates are given below. Parties arranged by Areas are, of course, also open to all comers. Enquiries or applications should go direct to the leaders whose names and addresses are also given. Individual bookings for the Old House, and all general enquiries, should continue to be made with the OLD HOUSE SECRETARY, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3.

MARCH 30-APRIL 4 (Easter). MIXED PARTY, led by REX CALKIN and RAY FABES. Apply to RAY FABES at 276 Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

MAY 13-23. WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, SOUTH EASTERN REGION. Including Bruges and Belgian Ardennes. Miss RUBY RELF, 188 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

MAY 25-29. OVERSEAS MEMBERS. GEOFF MARTIN, Overseas Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

JUNE 2-5. MIXED PARTY including coach trip to Bruges, Ypres, etc. Cost about £11. Leave London late Friday evening arrive Poperinge early Saturday morning. CHARLES JACKSON, 23 Beechwood Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

JULY 1-8. KENT AND SUSSEX AREA. MIXED PARTY, including Bruges and Belgian Ardennes. CYRIL CATTELL, St. Catherines, Highfield Road, East Grinstead, Sussex.

JULY 15-22. Leader: JACK CLARK, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

AUGUST 12-19. WINANT VOLUNTEERS.

AUGUST 21-28. WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NORTH WESTERN REGION. Mrs. A. DAVIDSON, 8 Mill Brow, Kirby Lonsdale, Carnforth, Lancs.

AUGUST 19-SEPT. 2. MIXED PARTY, week's visit to Holland, followed by second week in Belgium; five days in Bruges and two days at the Old House. Details from F. G. CHESWORTH, Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

SEPTEMBER 2-9 (Hop Fair weekend). Leader: Miss SHIRLEY JONES, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London E.C.3. For weekend or week.

N.B. As some of these parties are likely to be fully booked-up soon, readers are urged to apply for details as quickly as possible.

Journal Smalls Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

BRUGES. Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city are offered good accommodation and excellent meals in a very friendly atmosphere at HOTEL JACOBS. English spoken, strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr. Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, 1 Baliestraat, Bruges, Belgium.

KNOKKE, BELGIUM, for golden sands, bathing, sand-yachting, sports and entertainments. Within easy reach of the famed Cities of Art. Modern Hotel, excellent meals, English spoken, highly recommended. Inclusive charge June-Sept. £7 per week. July-August £8. Write for brochure to Mr. Georges Lietaert, Hotel Britannique, 31 Avenue van Bunnan, Knokke, Belgium.

ILKLEY, YORKS. Toc H member offers bed and breakfast. Reasonable. Central. Double or Single rooms. Lounge. Haigh, 10 Bridge Lane, Ilkley.

INEXPENSIVE HOLIDAY. Women's Association member offers use of bungalow at reasonable charge: Apply Mrs. O. J. Blackabey, 20 Berkeley Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

ENVELOPES. Good quality cream laid, 4½ x 3½, with Toc H crest on flap. 3s. per 100, direct from Toc H Publications Dept.

STAMPS. Gifts of Foreign Stamps and Great Britain (4d. values and over) are always welcomed by Toc H Stamps Appeal. C. H. Wake, 475 Roxborough Avenue, Rockcliffe, Ottawa, Canada. Mark Packets 'Free Gift'.

Collections of stamps urgently wanted, used and unused, British and Foreign, ancient and modern. Please send to help hospitals and missions. The Rev. Dick Tuesday, 263 Mansel Road, Millbrook, Southampton.

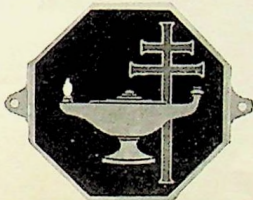
DISCOUNT of 10% to Toc H Branches, Churches, Youth activities and all Christian organisations on printing and stationery orders. Send 3d. stamp for free price list. Bluebird Press, 23 Tennyson Road, Newport, Mon.

WHERE TOC H MEETS—Attractive display cards. New design in black, white and amber, with space for Branch details. 3 for 1s. 6d. from Toc H Publications Dept.

SAFETY RAZOR BLADES. Gillette and 7 o'clock slotted type only when used but not rusty or wrapped, for sale to benefit the Family Purse, welcomed by Peter Cubitt, 34 Raydale Road, Darlington, Co. Durham.

Toc H Car Badges

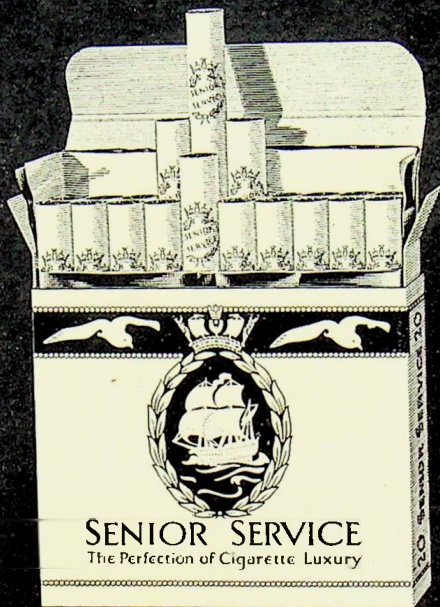
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